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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION
1936 SOIL CONSERVATION PROGRAM - SOUTHERN REGION

REPORT OF NEGRO LEADERS' AGRICULTURAL
CONFERENCE

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★ MAY 25 1936 ★
U. S. Department of Agriculture

Washington, D. C.
Friday, April 10, 1936
Room 5764
South Bldg.

Mr. E. A. Miller Presiding

Meeting opened promptly at 9:30 A. M. with the following in attendance:

- Jas. P. Davis, Field Representative, Little Rock, Ark.
J. B. Pierce, Field Agent, Hampton, Va.
T. M. Campbell, Field Agent, Regional Headquarters Tuskegee Institute, Ala.
- Ala. N. Kollock, State Agent, Negro Work, Tuskegee Institute, Ala.
I. L. Dumas, Farmer, (Wilcox County) Kinbrough, Ala.
- Ark. H. C. Ray, State Agent, Negro Work, 610 1/2 W. 9th St. Little Rock, Ark.
J. M. Curry, Farmer, (Pulaski County) Roland, Ark.
- Ga. P. H. Stone, State Agent, Negro Work, Industrial College, Ga.
Miles Hackney, Farmer, (Taliaferro County) R. F. D. Crawfordville, Ga.
- La. Leon Roberts, Representing State Agent, Negro Work, (St. Landry Parish)
Opelousas, La.
J. G. Lewis, Farmer, (Natchitoches Parish) Natchitoches, La.
- Miss. M. M. Hubert, State Agent, Negro Work, 843 1/2 Rose St., Jackson, Miss.
J. B. Lee, Farmer, (Sunflower County) Indianola, Miss.
- Okla. J. E. Taylor, State Agent, Negro Work, Langston University, Langston, Okla.
G. C. Woods, Farmer, (McCurtain County) Idabelle, Okla.
- S. C. H. E. Daniels, State Agent, Negro Work, S. C. State College, Orangeburg, S. C.
W. H. Lawson, Farmer, (Sumter County) R. F. D. Sumter, S. C.
- Texas C. H. Waller, State Agent, Negro Work, Prairie View College, Prairie View,
Texas.
W. M. McSham, Farmer, (Dallas County) Dallas, Texas.

Mr. Cully A. Cobb, Chief of the Southern Division of the Soil Conservation Program, opened the Conference with a brief, concise statement covering the basis and purpose of the conference. The basic reasons back of the conference as outlined by Mr. Cobb were:

1. Economic importance of the group represented
2. Value and soundness of the leadership as represented in the group

Further reviewing the Agricultural conditions leading up to 1933, Mr. Cobb explained the philosophy back of the national long-time planning

efforts as represented in the new Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Program.

Speaking specifically of the Program, Mr. Cobb pointed out the following aims:

1. To build the soil.
2. To protect farm prices.
3. To prevent wasteful and damaging surpluses.
4. To keep the program as simple as possible and direct..
5. To fit each farm in its application to the program.
6. Action.

The meeting was turned back to Mr. Miller.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

1. Introduction of Conference personnel (see list).
2. Introduction of Speakers and Guests.

Mr. I. W. Duggan

Mr. W. B. Camp

Mr. C. L. Chambers, Field Agent, Southern States

Mr. C. A. Cobb, Regional Director

Mr. J. P. Davis, Field Agent

Mr. J. N. Lipscomb, Economics, A.A.A.

Mr. R. F. Croom, A.A.A. Cotton Division

3. Mr. C. L. Chambers, Extension Field Agent, Southern States:

In a reminiscent talk he reviewed early days of the cotton plow-up campaign and the responses to it as indicative of expectations in present new program--contrasted economic conditions before and after operation of the A.A.A. as reasons for complete endorsement of present program.

Conference Work begins

Speaker--Mr. Lipscomb, Economist

Subject--"Economic Background of the S.C. Program."

Summary--1. Beginning of national adjustment efforts for Agriculture.
Theodore Roosevelt's Country Life Conference(1908)

2. Chart illustration of Agriculture's share of the National income (1909-1933)
3. The present export situation which makes cotton the goal when exchanged for duty-ridden imports.
4. Changes needed in foreign trade policies in defense of the cotton producers.

Speaker--Mr. Duggan

Subject--"The Soil Conservation Program in the Southern Region."

- Summary:
1. Keep program goals in mind.
 2. Don't hurt 1937 during 1936.
 3. No payments to persons not contributing to the building and conserving of the soil.
 4. No payments withheld from persons carrying out the provisions of the program.
 5. Numerical goals recalled.
 6. Review of World Cotton situation.
 7. Illustrations of supply-price behaviour.
 8. Procedure for applying for grant.
 9. Some observations:
 - (a) Legume seed may become scarce.
 - (b) Know what a soil building crop is.
 - (c) Know what a soil depleting crop is.
 - (d) Know what a soil conserving crop is.
 - (e) Know what a soil improvement practice is.
 - (f) Know what the bases for I and II class payments are.

Speaker--Mr. Ayers

Subject--"The Soil Conservation Program in the Southern Region."

- Summary:
1. The case study method was used to show:
 1. How a farmer may qualify for each of the two classes of payments.
 2. Variations possible in amount of payments. Synthetic cases were built, then the actual cases as represented by farmers were used to illustrate the working of the program.

Adjournment for Lunch.

Photographs----Mr. Ackerman

Mr. Ayers--continuing

Subject--"Soil Conservation Program"

Summary: Review and study of S. R. Bulletin #1

Speaker--Mr. Curtis:

Subject--"Application of Rulings and Instruction to Special Cases."

The case study method used utilizing cases represented by farmers present:

Mr. Cobb announced that Secretary Wallace would be present at 4:30.

Secretary Wallace arrived promptly at 4:30 P. M. Referring to the New Agricultural Program, Secretary Wallace said:

1. It is to be applied alike to like groups.
2. The organization for its operation a real economic democracy.
3. Changes must be made from time to time.
4. Basic changes come slowly.
5. The plan implies that soil -- our most valuable possession -- will be built and conserved.
6. Brief review of the past in Agriculture.
7. Ineffectiveness of Agricultural teaching.

Mr. Curtis resumed his work.

Speaker -- Mr. Alvord 5:20 P.M.

Subject: "The Administrative Set-up National, State and County."

Summary: Points and Origin of Authority

1. The Act itself
2. Organization set-up
3. Secretary of Agriculture, the Administrative officer
4. Administrator -- Assistants
5. Five regions:

- (a) Regional directors
- (b) State Directors (Extension)

County committee

Community committee

County Agt., the Secretary of Agriculture representative
Assistants in 60 to 70% of the counties.

Duties of committees outlined -- Hope of fairness in application emphasized.

Adjourned at 5:35

April 11, 1936
Saturday, 9:30 A. M.
Room 2050

Mr. E. A. Miller, Presiding

Mr. Camp emphasized a few opportunities offered in this new Agricultural program and presented Mr. Ayers to clear up some questions growing out of Friday's conference relative to an interpretation of farm practices in growing winter and summer legumes to be followed by and following soil depleting crops.

Speaker: Mr. Camp

Subject: Review of S. R. Leaflet #1

Summary: 1. Questions and answers were analyzed and explained.
2. The main features were isolated and discussed.

Speaker: Mr. Croom

Subject: Compliance

Summary: 1. Review of compliance problems under the A.A.A.
2. Some probable compliance problems under the new program.
3. General procedure that will be followed.
4. Misunderstanding, the basis of most complaints.
5. Compliance technique for the new program still incomplete.

Adjourned for Lunch

The group remained at the request of Field Agent Campbell to receive reports of the Friday night's conference.

Lunch

Reassembled at 1:30

Mr. Miller Presiding

Speaker: Miss Birkett

Subject: Instructions in Making Expense Accounts

Speaker: Mr. Davis

Subject: "The Soil Conservation Program and the Negro Farmer."

Summary: 1. Review of past Negro farmer activity
 2. Review of Soil Program Provisions
 3. Application of certain of these provisions to
 the typical Negro cotton farmer

Here, Field Agents Campbell and Pierce made brief references as to how the leadership represented in the conference might serve back in the various states and localities in bringing about a more intelligent and effective compliance with the new farm program by Negro farmers.

Guest Speakers:

Regional Director, Mr. Cobb, commented on the opportunities which this program offered the present leadership and introduced Mr. H. R. Tolley, Acting Administrator of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, who discussed the scope of Adjustment needs in the U. S. and the complexity of the Agricultural problem over the country as a whole.

The conference dissolved itself into a round table where each state representative spoke briefly of impressions and intentions.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00.